

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contextual location-based service apparatus, comprising:
  - a) a computer-based infrastructure, comprising:
    - 5 1) at least one database for storing information on at least one location;
    - 2) a context manager, coupled to the database, for indexing and sorting the information stored in the database;
    - 3) a contribution engine, coupled to the database, for entering, storing, managing, and retrieving additional information in the database;
    - 10 4) a locator, coupled to the contribution engine and the database, for converting a plurality of references to a specific location to a common location designation;
    - 5) a location browser, coupled to the database, for retrieving and reviewing information in the database; and
  - b) at least one client, which communicates with the infrastructure, for entering, editing, and 15 retrieving information from the database.
2. The contextual location-based service apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a link manager, coupled to the database, for linking a plurality of locations within the database to each other.
3. The contextual location based service apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a rating engine, coupled to the database, for rating information stored in the database. 20
4. The contextual location based service apparatus of claim 3, further comprising- a charge and payment manager, coupled to the database, for controlling access to information in the

database and for collecting fees from a user of a client for accessing the controlled access information in the database.

5. The contextual location based service apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a mapping engine, coupled to the database, for providing to the client a visual output of information, 5 thematic information, and metadata-stored in the database.

6. The contextual location based service apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a route planner, coupled to the link manager and the database, for accessing information stored in the database in sequence as the client travels between the plurality of locations.

7. The contextual location based service apparatus of claim 6, further comprising an 10 Intellectual Property manager, coupled to the database and the charge and payment manager, for providing proper access to intellectual property stored in the database.

8. A method for providing contextual location-based information, comprising:  
associating a plurality of information to the transition between locations;  
entering a plurality of pieces of contextual information into a database;  
15 determining a location reference for each piece of contextual information;  
sorting the contextual information by determined location reference;  
accessing the database by a location query, wherein the location query is compared to the determined location reference of the contextual information; and  
reporting results of the location query to a client.

20 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

entering a fee amount for accessing a specific piece of contextual information; and  
charging the fee amount to a user before, during, or after the specific piece of contextual  
information is accessed.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising linking at least two determined location

5 references to each other.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising entering a rating associated with the

contextual information for evaluating the contextual information entered in the database.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising a storing visual data as at least a portion

of the contextual information entered in the database, for providing to the client a visual output of

10 information stored in the database.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising linking a plurality of pieces of

contextual information in the database, for accessing the pieces of contextual information stored in  
the database in sequence.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising controlling access to intellectual

15 property entered as contextual pieces of information stored in the database.

15. A contextual location services system, comprising:

a database for storing contextual information on a plurality of geographic locations, and

a client, which communicates with the database, for retrieving the stored contextual

information, comprising a mobile communications device, wherein the client retrieves information

based on geographic location and is able to select one or more pieces of contextual information for presentation on the client, wherein presentation on the client includes audio presentation, video presentation, and audio/visual presentation, and the contextual information includes at least location information and at least one other piece of information about the geographic location.